

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UNITED STATES-INDIA NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I think it is so important that we do whatever we can to pass this nuclear agreement that has been negotiated with India. India is the largest democracy in the world and we have had such tremendous relations with them over the last number of years. I think it would send a great sign to the rest of the world that we are able to work on issues of this importance and actually get it done. I surely hope we can do this. I feel confident we can. There are amendments and people can debate them. When the managers of the bill have heard enough, if necessary they can move to table, or whatever it takes to move these along. Senator BIDEN on Tuesday said there are a lot of these amendments he is aware of that they could work out or accept.

So I am hopeful we can finish today, tonight, or tomorrow, and there is no reason we shouldn't be able to. We have a number of amendments that have been locked in and there is no way this matter should not be completed. I think it is very important that we go into the Thanksgiving period with knowing that we have been able to work out something between two great democracies.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will be back with the plans here shortly after I talk to the Democratic leader, and in the meantime we will be in a period of morning business. Again, the United States-India nuclear agreement is something we will complete before we leave and is the order of the day. We should be able to go to that very early this morning, maybe as soon as 20 minutes from now. That will be the plan, to proceed through those amendments. There is one amendment we may have to go into a closed session to debate, and the details will be announced for that as well.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. COLEMAN, and I would ask unanimous consent for each of us to sort of pool our 10 minutes apiece and take maybe the next 20 minutes to share—and some of our colleagues who are going to come by and talk as well—about the role our faith plays in the work we do here. If that might be acceptable, I would ask unanimous consent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the elections are behind us now and we are looking forward to the next Congress which will be seated on January 4—the 110th Congress. We have in town a number of newly elected Senators and their spouses. A number of us—Senator ALEXANDER, Senator VOINOVICH, Senator PRYOR, and myself—have been involved, along with the Secretary of the Senate, in holding orientation for new Senators and their spouses. On Tuesday night we were over at the National Archives and we had the opportunity to have a reception there and a dinner. The reception turned out to be a tour of the National Archives and the opportunity to see firsthand original copies of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, handwritten letters from George Washington to all kinds of people, and from Abraham Lincoln to all kinds of people. We actually looked at the original Bill of Rights where we found that there were actually 12 amendments proposed to the Constitution, not 10. Two were not actually adopted. It was interesting to see and to go back over 200 years to the history and formation of our country, to focus on it and to think about it and reflect on it.

When the Constitutional Convention was held, just up the Delaware River from where I live in Wilmington, DE, and up in Philadelphia, whenever the Founding Fathers were getting into a tough time trying to come to consensus or agreement on one issue or the other that they were grappling with, a lot of times they would take a break and pray about it. When the inauguration of President Washington occurred in New York City, when they finished the inauguration, they didn't go off and hold big parties and balls, but they actually went to a church and prayed together and had a worship service. In fact, I am told over in the

House of Representatives, when our country was young, President Jefferson was participating in worship services held there. Even now, 207 years later, we still begin each day's session here in the Senate, as they do in the House, with a prayer. We have Bible study groups that meet on Thursday with the Senate Chaplain, Barry Black. We have done that for a number of years. Senator COLEMAN, who has been one of our leaders in a Wednesday morning prayer breakfast, and MARK PRYOR from Arkansas have led that for a number of years.

So faith, from the beginning of our foundation as a country, has been important to us, to guide us as a nation, and to guide us today in our own personal lives.

When the Constitution was written and the Bill of Rights was written, the idea was not to establish an organized religion; the idea was to make sure people were free to practice whatever faith they wanted, and to be respectful of people of different faiths and the fact that people can worship as they see fit or choose not to worship at all. One of the strengths of our Nation is our faith, but another of the strengths of our Nation is the respect we have for people of different faiths. We have people in this body who are Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish. We worship the same God, just a bit differently.

One of the things we try to do during the course of the week is to use our faith. Whether we happen to be Presbyterian, Mormon, or Jewish, how do we use that faith to help guide us in the policies we adopt for our country and for the people we represent? I feel fortunate to live in a country where we are free to worship God as we see fit. I think there is a real opportunity here for us in the Senate as we try to put our country back together and begin to work together after a rough-and-tumble election to find ways that we can use our faith to figure out our path, and to better ensure the people in this country have health care, that folks have decent jobs, that folks get a good education, and that we can bind the wounds we have opened over the last several months and to move forward as a nation.

I say how pleased I am to have a chance to work with Senator COLEMAN from Minnesota and how much I appreciate the great leadership he has shown in bringing a bunch of us together on Wednesday mornings. I usually can't get here on Wednesday morning. I go back and forth on the train to Delaware almost every night, so I can't be there for many Wednesday mornings for that type of fellowship. But I often-times join my colleagues, including Senator LINCOLN of Arkansas and others, on Thursday right down the hall here for a Bible study group that is a little bit like an adult Sunday school class with the Senate Chaplain, affording us the opportunity to read scripture together, reflect together, to pray for one another, and to be nourished spiritually.